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Group Art Unit: 1624

AMENDMENTS

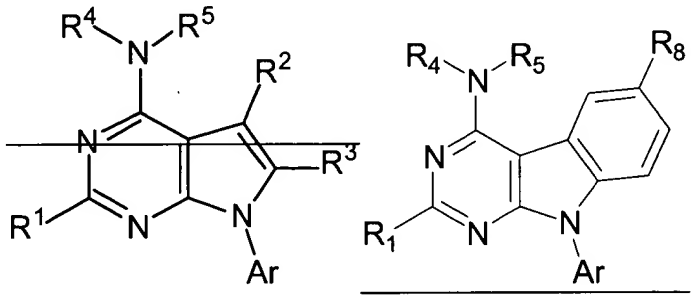
In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-7, 12-19, 22-27, 29-50, 52-67.

Please add new claims 68-78 as follows:

Cancel NE

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~ salt thereof wherein

Ar is phenyl, 1- or 2-naphthyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2-, 4- or 5-pyrimidinyl, each of which is mono-, di-, or trisubstituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxamide, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl with the proviso that at least one of the ortho or para positions of Ar is substituted;

R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, carboxamide, carboxylate, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or (C_1-C_6 alkyl)-G^1-R^6 wherein G^1 is nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and R^6 is hydrogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^8 is -(C_0-C_6 alkyl)-OR^9 where R^9 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

~~R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(C_0-C_2)-G^2-(C_2-C_4)-$ wherein G^2 is methylene, oxygen, sulfur or NR^7, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or~~

~~R^2 and R^3 taken together represent $-CH=A-CH=CH-$ wherein~~

~~A is N or CR^8;~~

~~R^8 is $(C_0-C_6$ alkyl$)-Z$;~~

~~Z is $CR^9R^{9'}$, $NR^9R^{9'}$, OR^9 or SR^9; and~~

~~R^9 and $R^{9'}$ independently represent hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;~~

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and represent hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or

phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, or 2-, 4-, or 5-pyrimidinyl, each of which is optionally mono- or disubstituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkoxy; or

R^4 and R^5 together represent $-(C_2$-$C_3)$-G^3-$(C_1$-$C_3)$- where

G^3 is methylene, 1,2 phenylene, oxygen, sulfur or NR^{10}; and

R^{10} is C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, or 2-, 4- or 5-pyrimidyl.

2. (Cancelled) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R_2 and R_3 together represent -CH=CR^8-CH=CH-.

NE 3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein R^8 is hydroxy or C_1-C_6 alkoxy ~~hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl~~.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is phenyl mono-, di-, or trisubstituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxamide, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl with the proviso that at least one of the ortho positions of Ar is substituted.

5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein Ar is phenyl substituted in the 2 and 4 positions with methyl, fluoro or chloro.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 6, wherein R^4 and R^5 independently represent hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkoxy(C_1-C_6) alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl.

8. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein R^8 is hydroxy ~~$-NR^9R^{9'}$~~.

9. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein R^8 is C_1-C_6 alkoxy ~~$-(C_1-C_6\text{ alkyl})-NR^9R^{9'}$~~.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl.

11. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R^4 and R^5 independently represent hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkoxy(C_1-C_6) alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl.

12. (Cancelled) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^3 together represent -(C_0-C_2)CH_2(C_2-C_4)-.

13. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 9 ~~12~~, wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl.

14. (Original) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R^4 and R^5 independently represent hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkoxy(C_1-C_6) alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl.

15-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Original) A packaged pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 53 in a container and instructions for using the composition to treat a patient in need thereof.

56. (Original) The packaged pharmaceutical composition of claim 55, wherein said patient is suffering from stress, posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, cardiovascular disease, headache, obesity or an eating disorder.

57. (Original) A method for localizing CRF receptors in tissue section samples comprising:

contacting with a sample of tissue a detectably-labelled compound of Claim 1 under conditions that permit binding of the compound to the sample of tissue;

washing the tissue sample to remove unbound compound; and

detecting the bound compound.

58. (Original) A method for the treatment or prevention of physiological disorders associated with excess of or insufficient amount of CRF, which method comprises administration to a patient in need thereof an effect amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

59. (Original) A method of inhibiting the binding of CRF to the CRF1 receptor, which method comprises contacting, in the presence of CRF, a solution comprising a compound of Claim 1, with cells expressing the CRF1 receptor, wherein the compound is present in the solution at a concentration sufficient to reduce levels of CRF binding to IMR32 cells in vitro.

60. (Original) A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a cell surface CRF1 receptor, said method comprising contacting cells expressing such a receptor with a solution comprising a compound according to Claim 1, wherein the compound is present in the solution at a concentration sufficient to reduce levels of CRF binding to IMR32 cells in vitro.

61. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of CRF binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 1 micromolar or less.

62. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of CRF binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 100 nanomolar or less.

63. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of CRF binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 10 nanomolar or less.

64. (Original) A method for treating stress, posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety or depression which

comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

65. (Original) A method for treating obesity or eating disorders which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

66. (Original) A method for treating cardiovascular disorders which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

67. (Original) A method for treating headache which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.